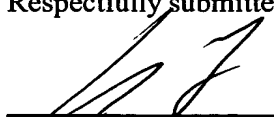


REMARKS

The purpose of this Preliminary Amendment is to eliminate multiple dependent claims in order to avoid the additional fee. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce claims to canceled combined subject matter.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

 50908
for 978

Anthony J. Zelano, Reg. No. 27,969
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400
Arlington, VA 22201
Direct Dial: 703-812-5311
Facsimile: 703-243-6410
Attorney Docket No.:MERCK-3019

Date: May 18, 2005

AJZ:aap

IK:\Merck\Merck 3000 - 3999\3019\preliminary amendment.doc